

The Minden Times

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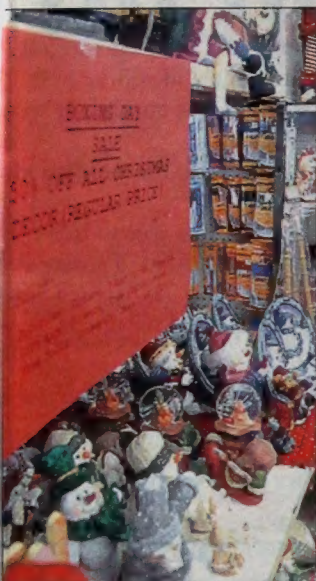
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LOOK INSIDE



Shopping for snow

Christmasy weather was on the wish list of local merchants who wanted the white stuff to boost sales
See page 3



Flying high

Pilot training course at Stanhope Airport gives wings to local dreams
See page 10

In Quotes

"When you're flying you feel free, you're on the top of the world."

Martin Slezak, page 10



Darren Lum/TIMES

Holiday air

After opening their presents, many local residents and cottagers headed for the slopes at Sir Sam's ski Area in Eagle Lake to work off some of that Christmas excess. This teenager took in a few jumps, too.

Start the new year with free family skate event

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library invite everyone to the Minden Arena on Friday, January 2 from 1 - 3 p.m. This promises to be an after-

noon of fun activities for the whole family.

At 2:30 p.m. there will be a presentation of a donation of books by Anne-Marie Cyr of Health for

Life. Family Services will also present research from the Child's Play Project.

Bring your family and skates and get ready for some fun.

Popular couple killed in tragic holiday accident

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

At 1:56 p.m. on December 24, Robert McConnell was driving a van he had just purchased as a Christmas gift for his parents around the parking lot of a Barrie mall when he was overcome by a dreadful feeling.

"I had to pull over because I almost lost it," he says. "I couldn't hang onto the steering wheel. It's like I had an anxiety attack."

At 1:56 that same day, his parents, Bob and Gayle McConnell of Halls Lake, were driving on the Monck Road on their way to Robert's house for Christmas, their car laden with gifts and holiday supplies. She had her glasses on, so maybe she was reading something to her husband. He had his eyes straight ahead on the road when an oncoming car pulled into their lane and hit them head on.

Both the McConnells and a 17-year-old passenger in the other car were killed instantly from the force of the impact.

Earlier that day, at 11:52 in the morning, the McConnells had phoned their son to say they were on their way. He told them he'd be waiting in the driveway for them.

He was waiting there at 5:30 when he was overcome by another dreadful feeling. He went inside, phoned the police, and gave his parents' name and make of car. He knew something was

see McCONNELLS page 7

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Dale Walker and Marg Fielding (far left), on behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, accept a \$1,000 cheque from Country Wide Haliburton Realty Ltd. Country Wide donated the money from commissions for houses it sold that were first listed in the month of May. Standing from left to right are: Dale Walker, Marg Fielding, Vince Jarvis, Tom Gardner, Henrie Paluskiewicz and Doug Johnson. Seated are Sandy Johnson and Dianne Smith.



Teen slightly injured after losing control of vehicle on snowy roads

On Sunday, December 21 at 8:45 a.m. a Ford F150 pickup was following another vehicle eastbound on Hwy. 118 east of Hwy. 35. The pickup's driver became impatient and after pulling out to pass the other vehicle, lost control of the truck on the snow-covered road.

The pickup then struck a rock face and began to roll over, end over end. While in the midst of rolling over, the pickup struck the vehicle that it was attempting to overtake.

The pickup came to rest on its roof in the westbound lane.

The driver, a 17-year-old female, was able to free herself from the vehicle prior to the arrival of emergency services. She was transported to the Minden hospital where she was treated and released for minor injuries.

The pickup's driver was charged with careless driving.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP reminds the public to drive according to the weather and road conditions.

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Lack of snow puts damper on holiday sales

by MATTHEW WALLS
Times staff

The lack of snow this Christmas was a disappointment for many, though perhaps none more so than local businesses who wished for snow to bring in snowmobilers and tourists to boost their Christmas sales.

Few businesses in the Minden area saw sizable jumps in Christmas sales, which is actually never a great sales time for businesses here, unlike in the city.

Summer, which draws the cottagers, is the big sales season, although for some companies December sales can compare in size to July or August.

Of those who did see an increase in sales from 2002, the difference was only 5 or 10 per cent.

Richard Graesser, owner of Limberlost Outdoor Furniture, said his sales were "a little bit better than last year," largely because his company, now in its second year, is better known.

Limberlost, like many local businesses, ran a sale on selected items of 10 per cent.

Minden Home Hardware and Building Supplies saw an increase of 5 per cent. Owner John Pentney attributed the slight increase to the area's growing population.

Christmas sales at Cox's Apparel jumped 10 per cent from 2002, said owner Marie Cox.

"Christmas is usually pretty good, although a lot of people go out of town."

Digital cameras at Photo Solutions Image Centre boosted the store's Christmas sales this year, said owner Lori Roberts.

Roberts added that while Christmas sales have improved, summer still is the best time for them.

Stedman's V & S Department Store

had a "pretty good" Christmas, said owner John Thomas.

Thomas said Christmas sales, which usually start just after Halloween, were a "little bit" up and would have been even better with a bit more "Christmassy weather."

Thomas was the most positive of all surveyed. "A lot of people are shopping locally for what they can get here," Thomas said.

Others, like Bob Patton, owner of North Shore Lawn & Garden Equipment, feel most shoppers are going outside the county to buy items they can't buy here, and end up doing the rest of their shopping as well.

"I think everybody vacates Haliburton," Patton said. "We need a Canadian Tire up here to keep people up here, shop up here," Patton said.

Patton's own business suffered badly during the Christmas, largely because North Shore depends on the snow to prompt customers to buy items such as snow blowers.

"Without snow we were down 25 to 30 per cent," Patton said. "If you don't have snow, selling doesn't work."

The store's Christmas stock, lower-priced items such as safety equipment and helmets, didn't sell as badly.

North Shore, however, like many of the area businesses, isn't dependent upon Christmas sales to boost their revenue. The store's Christmas sales are a very low percentage of the year's total sales, Patton said.

Still, Patton would like to see "a real cold snap to get us going."

So would Riverview Furniture & Appliances, which had a quiet Christmas. Like North Shore, though, Christmas sales are never really that busy at the store.



Darren Lum/TIMES

A customer views the discounted price on a blanket during the V&S Stedman's boxing day sale. The store had up to 50 per cent off on all Christmas products such as wrapping, bags and assorted figurines. Christmas sales were the same, if not a little better than last year but more snow would have made a welcome difference.

Jim McMahon, owner of McMahon's Feeds 'N Needs and Grooming, joins the chorus of those asking for more snow. Although his sales were up \$100 from last year – largely bolstered by the booming trade in deer feed, bought mostly by retired cottagers – the weather, McMahon said, "just didn't draw the tourists which we depend on."

McMahon also noticed a lack of new faces. Other signs of a slow Christmas, McMahon said were Christmas trees and the Lions' Christmas cakes. McMahon had two trees left over, and five cases of fruitcake left of the 25 cases the Lions had ordered. McMahon usually runs out of cakes and has to order more in.

County welcomes new forestry conservation officer

by JERRY GROZELLE
Times staff

The following items were discussed at the recent Haliburton County council meeting.

Adam Barkovitz, the County's new Forest Conservation by-law Enforcement Officer was introduced to the members of council. He will officially be on the job in January.

"I believe we have an excellent by-law," said Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney. "Now we have a person who can embrace it and enforce it."

Barkovitz said his first priority will be to "listen and learn."

The by-law has been circulated to every

known logger in the county.

CAO Gary King noted that entrance permits for logging operations are mandatory and that the county is obligated to issue them in a timely manner. He said they are sent out either the same day or the next day.

"It is up to the municipal roads superintendents to collect municipal entrance fees and make sure culverts are installed."

King also took the opportunity to introduce the members of council to Barkovitz.

Committees to merge

The Marketing and Economic

Diversification Committee will have a name change, a composition change and new terms of reference.

Since marketing is the responsibility of the Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of the Whole of Haliburton County has recommended the word "marketing" be dropped from the committee title.

It also recommends appointing two members of county council to the committee to ensure there is always council representation.

The Strategic Planning Committee will become a part of the Economic

Diversification Committee. The structure of the committee will include two county councillors, three non-elected appointees, two representatives from the Haliburton County Development Corporation and one from the Trails and Tours Network. Other county staff resources will be available to assist as well.

One of the mandates of the new committee will be to develop a communications strategy for the county.

"Sometimes we're so busy we forget to tell people what we are doing," King said.

Holiday hours

The Haliburton County office will be closed from Christmas day until January 5.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Haliburton County

Four vie for Conservative nomination

by JERRY GROZELLE
Times staff

The new Conservative Party of Canada is less than a month old and four people have already stepped forward to seek the nomination to represent the Haliburton-Victoria-Brock riding in the next federal election, which is expected in the spring.

The candidate selection process is expected take place in February or March. In the meantime these four people, and possibly more, will be campaigning to gain support of party members.

Following is a brief introduction to the four hopefuls.

Barry Devolin

Haliburton resident Barry Devolin was among the first to declare his intention to seek the nomination. He ran as the Reform Party candidate in this riding in 1993. Since that time, Devolin worked for Chris Hodgson, Mike Harris and Tim Hudak at Queen's Park and Preston Manning on Parliament Hill.

Devolin now operates his three-year-old strategic planning and communications business from Haliburton, where he returned this fall to live with his wife Ursula and son George.

"I'm running because I want a better deal for rural communities," Devolin said. "It's clear the Liberals are not listening to rural concerns. Someone needs to effectively represent the views and interests of central Ontario — of farmers, tourist operators, small business and rural municipalities — on Parliament Hill. I want that job."

"The federal and provincial Liberals and the NDP are urban focused," Devolin

said. "There are a number of issues of concern to rural people. They need a voice to bring those concerns forward."

Devolin said agriculture is a primary industry that is very vulnerable. The tourist industry and the retirement community, of which the riding has a high percentage, are concerned about health care. Devolin said more money is needed in rural areas to make sure ambulance response times are as short as possible. He said the funding formula is population-based and that the funding doesn't reflect the huge increase in local population over the summer months when the seasonal residents and the tourists are here.

Devolin also expressed a need to attract businesses to the area to provide jobs so more of the young people from this area can remain here and find work.

Better availability of high speed internet access is essential, he said. "In my consulting business, the internet is my connection to the world."

"I'm proud of our conservative values and I'm excited about the opportunity a new Conservative Party offers to challenge Liberals in this riding and across Canada," he said. "As a former candidate in this riding and three-time Ontario PC campaign manager, I believe that I have the experience and qualifications needed to get the job done."

Devolin ran for office under the Reform banner 10 years ago. He said that one of the questions he was often asked at that time was "what experience do you have in politics?"

Since then, he has worked with four politicians, thereby gaining a wealth of

experience. Devolin said he would strive to provide the kind of service for which MPP Chris Hodgson was known.

Devolin said he considers the nomination much the same as a job interview. The difference is that when the candidate is chosen, those who competed for the position remain committed to a common goal.

"The day after the nomination meeting we're all back on the same team," he said. "I think it will be very interesting. This is considered one of the most winnable ridings."

Jamie Schmale

At 27 years of age, Jamie Schmale says his energy is one of his strong points.

Schmale is the news/sports director of Y92 FM Radio station in Lindsay. He has worked at the station for the past seven years and has covered all levels of politics.

"I think I have a good idea of what the people of this area want in an MP," he said. "My experience and age give me a leg up. I will provide a strong voice and better access to government services."

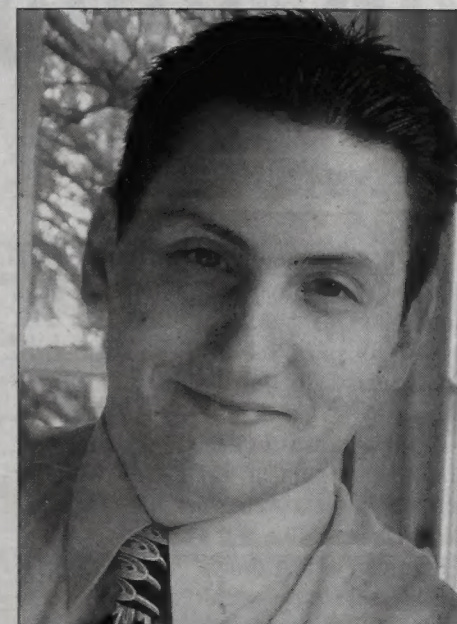
Schmale said there should be a bigger emphasis on agriculture. He said farmers need help because they face conditions beyond their control. He said there is little incentive for today's youth to remain on the family farms. "It's sad. There is so much history," he said. He would work to make the family farm more viable.

Schmale is against the Liberal government's gun control program. "It's not effective. They've already wasted a billion

see RIGHT-WING page 5



Barry Devolin



Jamie Schmale

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Right-wing merger seen as grassroots victory

from page 4

dollars on it," he said. "It's not working. We need to get illegal guns off the street." He said the current legislation does nothing to address the criminal use of firearms.

National defense is another area that needs attention, Schmale said. "It needs to be funded properly," he said. "Our brave men and women of the military are not given proper equipment. The Defense Department should be given an adequate budget and allowed to administer it. They know what they need better than politicians."

Water systems are another important issue for Schmale. He said more money should be brought into the riding to provide infrastructure for its "crumbling" water systems.

Schmale has lived in Lindsay for the past two years and Bobcaygeon for 12 years. He graduated from Fenelon Falls Secondary School and earned his journalism diploma from Loyalist College.

"As the news director for the radio station, I have become familiar with municipal, provincial and federal issues, as well as on-going community projects,"

Schmale said. "I am committed to the betterment of this riding."

He is involved with several organizations. He serves as Media/Communications Chair of Easter Seals in Kawartha Lakes; Public Relations Committee Member for Community Care - City of Kawartha Lakes; Volunteer with United Way; Referee-In Chief of Lindsay/Ops Minor Hockey and Central Ontario Wolves AAA hockey organizations; Past Referee-In Chief of Bobcaygeon Minor Hockey; and Director Haliburton-Victoria-Brock Conservative Association.

"Obviously, a merger between the parties is good news in our riding, where vote splits have been a real advantage to the Liberals, and a disadvantage to democracy," Schmale said. "I feel that helping the community and representing our local views in Ottawa is an important job, and an honour that I hope to have."

Dan Cornell

Lindsay lawyer Dan Cornell was chosen as the Canadian Alliance candidate recently, edging Peter Taylor by a few votes. Now, he's prepared to go through



Dan Cornell

the process all over again as he seeks the nomination for the Conservative Party.

"History is being made tonight as the

Haliburton-Victoria-Brock members of the newly minted Conservative Party of Canada gather for the first time," Cornell told a group of supporters at the Admiral Inn a few days after the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties merged.

He noted that the ratification vote was overwhelmingly supportive of "uniting the grassroots Canadian Alliance Party with the rich history, tradition and experience of the Progressive Conservatives."

Cornell said the merger is the start of an enormous amount of work. "Among the many challenges, the new party must now elect a leader, form riding associations across Canada and hold nomination meetings to select candidates to run in the next federal election," he said.

Cornell has assembled a campaign team and is working to build membership support, recruit volunteers and establish contact with local conservatives and national organizers.

"It's absolutely critical that we are highly organized and work closely with our members here and with the national

see KNOWLEDGE page 6

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Knowledge of local issues extolled

from page 5

team," he said. "This new party is intended to be inclusive of every member. We want to hear what's important to people and we welcome new ideas and fresh thinking."

Pulling the two parties together is something Cornell says he is prepared to do. He considers himself a "bridge builder and a consensus maker." He feels those qualities are essential as the new riding association prepares to send the best candidate to Ottawa to represent this riding.

Cornell is a long-time Lindsay resident with business and personal interests across most of the riding. The 48-year-old has 23 years experience in the legal profession and is considered to be an expert in Canadian constitutional law and a leading authority in aviation law. His legal experience includes serving as Crown Attorney, family law, corporate/commercial law, civil litigation and providing legal services for real estate, wills and trusts. He opened his law practice in Lindsay in 1980.

He is active in the community, serving as a minor league softball coach. An avid hockey enthusiast, he plays in a men's league in Ops. He is a pilot, a certified ski instructor and a member of the Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance.

Cornell says Haliburton-Victoria-Brock "needs representation from someone who knows and understands local issues — someone with proven intelligence, business sense and political acumen to ensure funding for critical projects and support for initiatives that bring long term prosperity to the region."

David Scrymgeour

Both the Progressive Conservatives and the Canadian Alliance have shown a tremendous amount of confidence in David Scrymgeour. He was appointed executive director of the newly formed Conservative Party of Canada. He accepted the position on an interim basis, knowing there was a strong possibility he would seek nomination for this riding.

Scrymgeour said he had a goal of "bringing the conservative family together nationally" as executive-director of the new party. He says that by the end of this month the input he needed to provide will be complete and people in place to advance the Conservative cause.

Now, he believes, he can best channel his energy into winning this riding for the new party as its candidate in the next federal election. As a team builder, both in politics and the business sector, Scrymgeour is confident he can achieve that goal.

"I believe I have the experience to deliver," he said.

As a relative newcomer to the riding — he currently lives in Lindsay but is looking for a house with waterfront in the riding — he said he doesn't underestimate the challenge of gaining the confidence of the people in this area.

He came to this area to assist with Laurie Scott's bid to replace MPP Chris Hodgson when he decided to retire from politics. He liked the area so much, he decided he wanted to live here. "Win, lose or draw, I'm here to stay," he said.

Scrymgeour believes his background in business — he has been a trouble shooter,

rebuilding businesses with problems and he has developed a number of his own businesses — and his political experience over the past four years give him an advantage that could help him defeat incumbent Liberal candidate John O'Reilly.

"As a businessman, I understand what it means to build a business; to meet a payroll," he said. "It takes hard work and intelligent risk to realize the desired outcome and rewards. That's the foundation of any community — people who work hard and take intelligent risk."

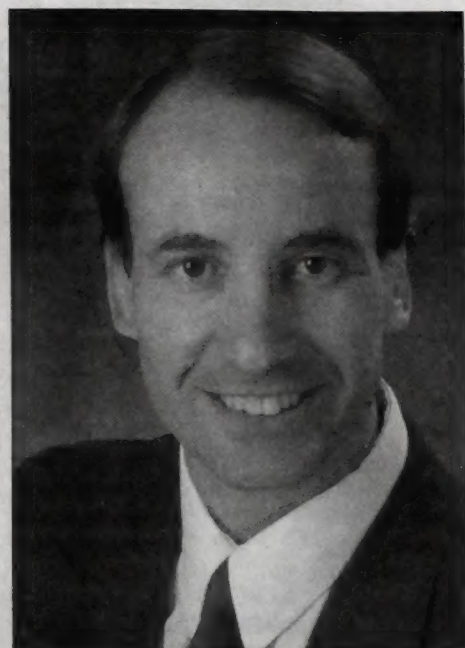
He believes his experience building businesses led to his successes in politics. He has an impressive amount of accomplishments in political circles, both in Ottawa and provincially. He was an advisor to both PC leader Peter MacKay and CA leader Stephen Harper in the negotiations that led to the amalgamation of the two parties.

While working with Laurie Scott, Scrymgeour says he became very familiar with the issues in this riding.

"The people who have come to know me are the people who have enthusiastically encouraged me to seek the nomination," he said. He said he has the support of key people from every corner of the riding and he is making new contacts continually. "I have to prove myself to the people of the community and earn their trust," Scrymgeour said. "I will be working toward that goal until the election."

Although he is a new resident in the area, Scrymgeour has been cottaging on Lake Kashagawigamog since he was eight.

"Life, for me, is about stewardship and



David Scrymgeour

contribution to community," he said. "I've always been involved in the church, sports and community organizations. I'm interested in historical societies and I believe in the value of the environment. I couldn't be happier than I am in this community."

Scrymgeour said with the amalgamation of the PC and CA parties there is "finally a democratic opposition that is on the way to forming a government." His goal is to go to Ottawa as an MP.

"When our farmers can't sell their beef and when the government spends one and a half billion dollars to register guns, that hurts our community," Scrymgeour said. "The federal government has never been so important. What happens around the world impacts us more than it ever did."

Scrymgeour says he's a fighter and with his experience and determination he is confident he can make a positive difference.

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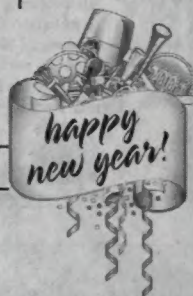
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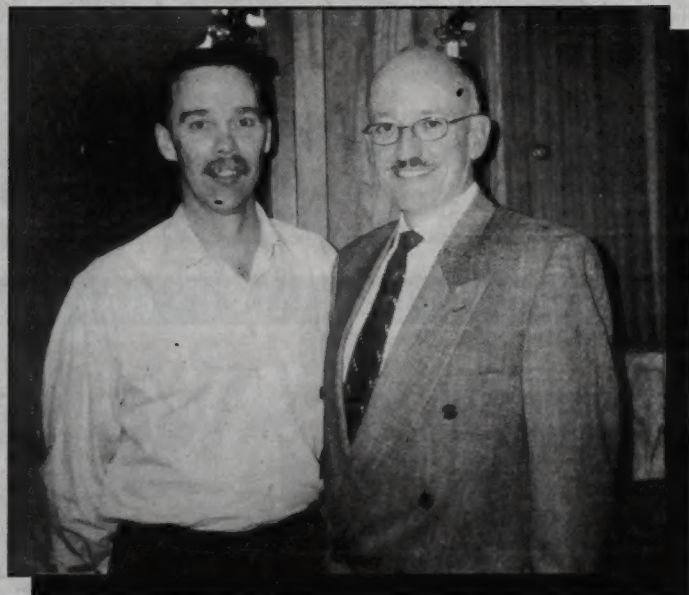
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McConnells embraced their Highlands life

from page 1

wrong when the officer on the other end of the line said his computer was down and he'd have to call back.

A few minutes later, a police cruiser pulled into Robert McConnell's driveway, parking beside the van with its pretty red bow. The officers had arrived to tell him his parents had been killed in an accident.

"My parents were my best friends," Robert told The Times on Saturday, "and even though there's so much sorrow there's so much grace because I have such fabulous memories of them."

He also says that in many ways it was good they died together, because if one had died before the other, the surviving spouse would surely die from a broken heart.

"They were such together people they had to die together. One could never live without the other."

Robert says the 18-year-old man who was driving the car that struck his parents told the police had hit the gravel shoulder and lost control but after visiting the accident site near Seabright, Robert wonders whether the driver had pulled out to pass. There were no skid marks and the tires of his parents' vehicle were pointed straight ahead.

Orillia police are asking the driver of a green SUV that was travelling on the road at the time of the accident to phone them.

Throughout the Minden area many other people were shocked and deeply saddened by the news of the McConnells' death. Since transforming the Halls Lake cottage, which they bought in 1966, into their retirement home several years ago, they had become fixtures in the Minden social scene. Whether they were curling or playing cards, volunteering or inviting some-

one over for dinner, they shared their joy of living with everyone they met.

"They were passionate about making people happy," their son says. "They were the glue in other people; they brought people together. They were the light of everyone's eyes. Mom always wanted to be at the front of the line for everything and dad was a car salesman through and through."

"They lived three lifetimes in one and really cared about everything they did."

Cheryl Murdoch, president of the Minden Curling Club, says the McConnells were "very, very outgoing, always friendly with a smile on their faces. They were fun people."

Bob was the consummate "armchair skip," their friend Barb Gillespie says. If he wasn't on the ice "he was always sitting behind the glass hoping he could spare."

"He never missed a shot up there," Murdoch laughs.

Members of the curling club were devastated by the news. "It took the wind out of many people's sails," Murdoch says. "People came home from the Christmas holidays to that message so it's pretty hard."

Seniors curling was supposed to resume on January 5 but the games were cancelled; that's the same day as the McConnells' memorial service at Monk's Funeral Home in Minden.

Barb Gillespie says that both of the Gillespies were very youthful. He was 72 and she was 66 but "they'd bounce out of here; they'd dance all around."

The two couples recently went to a Shania Twain concert and had many outings to Rama. When there was snow on the ground the McConnells loved to go snowmobiling and had just purchased new



'They were such together people they had to die together. One could never live without the other,' says the son of Bob and Gayle McConnell of Halls Lake. The outgoing couple was killed near Seabright on their way to their son's house for the holidays.

sleds. In the summer, she was a member of the Happy Hungry Hackers with the women's golf league. She volunteered with health services in Minden and was a member of the Eastern Star; he loved to help others through Shriners.

They both grew up in the Arnprior area and moved to Toronto "to make their fortune," their son says. Their own two children, Robert and Kimberly, were raised in Stouffville where Bob McConnell had a second-hand car business (which Robert bought this past February.) Gayle started as a teacher but then went into real estate.

As cottagers they embraced life on Halls Lake and tried to spend as much of their summer there. When they retired they put 32,000 km on their Westphalia van.

Robert couldn't wait for them to arrive at his house on Christmas Eve to see the pre-owned van sitting in the driveway. After the accident, however, he couldn't bear to see it and had it removed.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home in Minden on Sunday, January 4 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Monday, January 5 from 11 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at the chapel at 1 p.m. The Masonic service will be at the funeral home on Sunday, January 4 at 2:30 p.m. followed by the Legion service at 3 p.m..

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Resolutions unfulfilled

Last year at this time, we prepared a wish list for resolutions we had hoped would be made and realized. One was for the federal government to resolve to spend our tax dollars wisely. We're still waiting for that one to transpire. Admittedly, 2003 has been a year of challenges. SARS, mad cow disease and West Nile virus put an unforeseen strain on governments from all levels. But the feds continue to plough millions of dollars into ineffective programs and perks for their cronies when those millions would have been more wisely spent on health care and education, to name but two. More funds available for health care would provide a form of cushion in the event of another SARS-type crisis. It is obvious we were not prepared to handle this situation and it is only a matter of time until some other medical emergency arises. The time to prepare for future emergencies is now.

Provincially, we had hoped for decisions based on solid logic, sound economics and, in some cases, real biological data; to avoid decisions based on emotion; to give rural residents an equal voice and realize that urban and rural interests are not always the same; recognize that what is good for the GTA, Ottawa or Windsor may be bad for Minden, Haliburton or Carnarvon.

That is another one that, in many cases is lacking. The masses in the metropolitan areas still have far too much influence on the issues that affect us in rural areas. Decisions affecting our lifestyle in Haliburton County are, to a large extent, influenced by executives on Bay Street or domestic engineers in Rosedale – people who have no idea what it is like to live here year round.

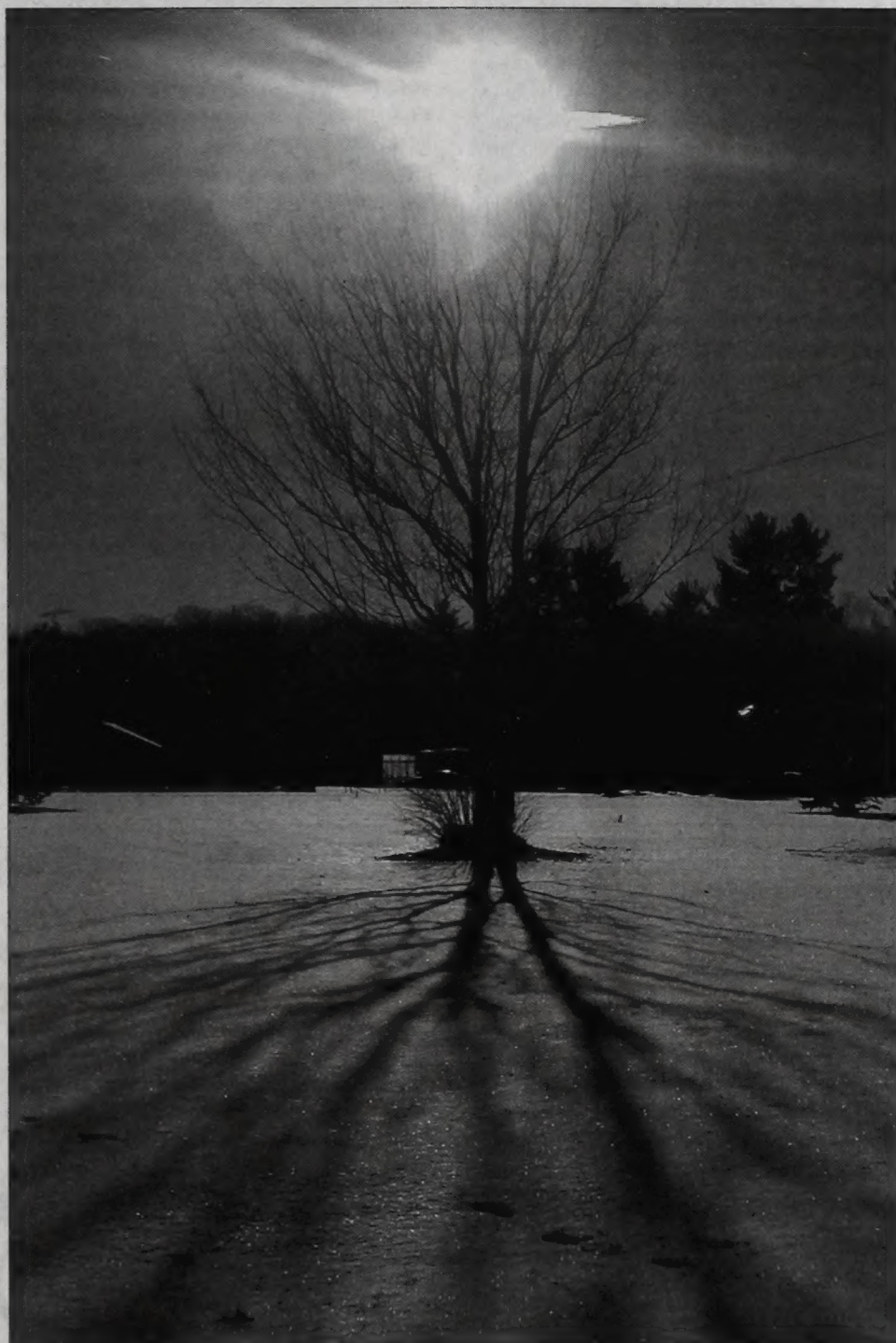
It doesn't look as though that is likely to change with the change in government. The majority of the votes are in centered in the big cities. Politicians are unlikely to make sensible decisions if there is a chance they might alienate voters, even if those voters are uneducated regarding life in rural Ontario. Instead of educating the masses, it's easier, and often more productive, to just ignore the needs of the rural residents.

The current provincial government seems bent on blaming all of the province's ills on the previous government and using figures of convenience to justify ignoring promises that got it elected instead of focusing on what it believes must be done reverse those ills.

On the county front, we had hoped to see some change in the way the Warden is chosen. It is an election. But unless more than one person is willing to stand up and say he or she is willing to accept the responsibilities, it becomes an appointment. The perception that backroom deals are made, allowing people to take the office based on some other criteria than merit as opposed to being democratically elected is possible. We have no qualms about anyone who has served as warden, it is the process that lends itself to the wrong interpretation. But then, if only one person stands for nomination, there isn't much we can do to affect a change. It has been about 10 years since there was a real election of a warden, where county councillors actually had to vote.

Congratulations go out to new Warden Bill Davis. We're sure you will represent the county well and very capably. Perhaps your peers around the county council table were wise not to run against you.

Municipally, things look a little more positive. We haven't had a big turnover of high profile staff members at Minden Hills in recent months. Hopefully, there will be some stability for a while.



IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Shadows

Photo by DARREN LUM/Times

TO THE EDITOR

Times readers write

For the love of community?

To the Editor:

As a property owner and ratepayer in the Haliburton Highlands, I feel compelled to express concerns on relentless threats to our community and the environment. Like the majority of Haliburton Highlands property owners, permanent and seasonal residents, we chose Haliburton many years ago for its natural beauty, peace and quiet. We chose Haliburton to get away from the smog, noise and pollution of the big city life. For many years we have paid our share of ever-increasing taxes for our property for which we do not have a proper access and do not receive any services.

The snowmobile and ATV clubs are pushing the County of Haliburton to gain exclusive use privileges on the rail trail, to the exclusion of all others who would prefer more benign and healthy activities. Ironically, we are told they are doing this "for the love of the community!"

Well, all property owners and their fami-

lies adjacent to the rail trail are part of this community. This is a very disturbing trend to pressure the community and the local government for the gains of a few at the expense of all. The so-called "MasterPlan" has a lot of ambiguity in it. The only thing clear about it is to obtain use privileges for club members and to receive public funding. The blatant message to property owners and ratepayers around the rail trail is a rude one: "Sorry, we are determined to bring back to you the noise and pollution you thought you escaped from, and guess what, you are paying for it!"

This is a slap on the face to all those who attended the public meetings and raised legitimate concerns in opposition. Fortunately the final decision rests with our elected local/county councils. I read with interest many letters to the editor in which the community is demanding healthier, less-intrusive and non-polluting activities on the trail, including walking, jogging,

see MOTORIZED page 9

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IN OTHER WORDS

Columnists and Letters to the Editor

After the ball

It's no secret that some people will do anything for love. But, recently, a Sicilian man took this strange concept to a whole new level. You're probably guessing that he wrote his lover's name across the sky, maybe walked untold miles to see her, or even went so far as to shower her in fragrant rose petals. Perhaps, you speculated that he serenaded her with a beautiful love song that he wrote, draped her with luxuriant furs, or proposed to her in a wonderful public place? Well, if you guessed any of the above you wouldn't be too far off the mark - he arranged to have himself shot in the groin.

And people say that only the French are romantic.

The story goes that our 27-year-old Romeo ordered his friend to use a shotgun to pepper him with birdshot in the genital area. This, in order to win back sympathy and affection from his ex-girlfriend who left him due to his violent nature. Is it just me who sees some strange irony here?

Far be it from me to advise on matters of the heart but I suspect that this wasn't exactly the right approach. You don't see this kind of thing written about on Valentine's cards and I'm reasonably sure it's only rarely mentioned in your finer romance novels.

Still, at least you've got to give some credit for originality. Van Gogh only sliced off an ear for a woman and he was considered a genius. This man now urinates in six different directions at once and all for love. Kind of chokes you up doesn't it?

All I can say is that she must have been one special lady. Yet it didn't turn out to be a fairytale ending. Somehow she resisted the urge to take him back. For his sake, I hope she's not just playing hard to get. It

makes me wonder what a fellow has to do to win a second chance. It's pretty clear that this is a man who's not afraid of commitment.



BEYOND35

Steve Galea

Despite all this, I'm still having a hard time understanding his motives. Maybe it's because of my own feelings on the matter. I can honestly say that I wouldn't intentionally allow anyone to shoot me in the groin for love nor money. It goes against everything I believe in. The next thing you know the anti-gun lobby will be announcing that guns cause sterility. In this case, however, maybe it's a public service.

What was he thinking?

I'm not saying that I oppose the odd romantic gesture but, and maybe I'm wrong here, I don't think that excessive

gunplay need be involved. This only reinforces the myth that men don't understand what women want.

On the other hand, this whole incident could have been a terrible misunderstanding. Maybe our young romantic wanted to get shot but not in the old fig leaf. Sicily is a rocky place and perhaps when his friend asked where the shooting would take place, he casually answered, "Shoot me in the stones," while pointing to a nearby rock pile. If so, in time, they'll laugh about it.

Even so, I think we can all agree that this young man showed extremely poor judgment in the matter. If he wanted to endure that kind of excruciating pain he should have waited for marriage, just like the rest of us.

Let's face it, that woman probably didn't love him at all. Perhaps she wanted a purely physical relationship. It's sad but true. Some women only want to get you in the sac.

The name game

Mexico wants to change its name. A national campaign, backed by a coterie of Mexican congressmen, is agitating to update a moniker the country has carried since 1824.

Actually, that's a tad misleading. The re-namers would really prefer that their country to be called just 'Mexico'.

Right now, the official name of the place is "The United Mexican States", which they argue, is pointless, since no one actually uses that name — and liable to get them confused with You Know Who directly to their north.

Tricky commodities, names. It's not widely known, but Mexico's Yucatan peninsula got its name through a linguistic misunderstanding. Early Spanish explorers asked the natives as best they could what they called the place. The natives replied something that sounded like 'Yec a tanh'. The Spaniards so dubbed it, not knowing the phrase was Mayan for "Anybody know what the hell this guy is saying?"

Canada is no stranger to Name Dysfunction. The jury is still out on just what 'Canada' stands for. One school claims that it comes from a similar misunderstanding on the shores of the St. Lawrence. Sam Champlain asked the

native what they called the land they came from. "Kanatta" they replied. The phrase is Iroquois for 'collection of huts'. Champlain thought they were talking about the whole Great White North.

Another story has it that 15th century Portuguese fishermen are responsible for our name. After surveying the bleak and barren Labrador coastline they muttered 'Que nada!' (Over there - nothing.)

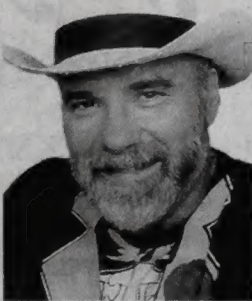
Those Portuguese fisherman are just lucky Molson Breweries wasn't around back then. The beer tycoons would have sued them all the way back to Lisbon. Molson doesn't exactly own Canada, but they do hold the trademarks

for the phrases "I am Canadian" and "Here's Where We Get Canadian".

And they're a tad cranky about it. Charlene Stillings found that out a couple of months ago when she marketed a line of dog biscuits called Heart Smart Pet Treats. Way down in the corner of the package where it usually says "Made In Canada",

Charlene thought it might be cute to put "I am Canine-dian" instead.

Too cute by half, according to the beer baron's lawyers. They've dropped a blizzard of paper on Charlene and they're taking her before the Canadian Trademarks Opposition Board in an effort to make her drop the phrase.



ARTHUR BLACK

Columnist

Isn't it somewhat unlikely that somebody might confuse a bag of dog biscuits with a two-four of suds? Not the point, harrumphs a Molson spokesthingy "We own the trademark for 'I Am Canadian'. Whenever someone does something that may confuse the trademark, we have to protect it."

Charlene Stillings doesn't buy that. She's a one-woman entrepreneur who makes her product by hand and

sells to small shops in B.C. and Alberta.

She's up against an international conglomerate that spends more money on one inane 30-second TV ad than she'll make in a decade. "I'm clearly not infringing on their product lines. I'm clearly selling dog biscuits. I'm not selling beer. Why do

they have to pick on me?"

Good question, Charlene. Especially in light of another odd trend in names. It seems an increasing number of American parents are deliberately naming their children after popular commercial brands. A newspaper reporter did a search of Social Security records and found that, in the year 2,000 alone, 49 children were named Canon and 24 were named Unique.

Other names given to children that year include Jaguar, Chanel, Camry and Xerox. And some guy in Texas named his newborn daughter ESPN after his favourite TV channel.

Molson's Breweries are coming off as grotesquely heavy handed in this whole tempest-in-a-beerglass. What do they mean they 'own the rights' to the phrase "I am Canadian"? Does that mean 30 million Canucks break the law every time we respond when somebody asks us our nationality?

Tell it to Homer, my bearded collie. He's mighty fond of Charlene's biscuits - which means he's not too sweet on Molson or their lawyers.

Homer and I both have grey beards but we're fundamentally different. I am Canadian. He is Canine-dian.

So sue us.

Motorized use of Rail Trail will 'tarnish the reputation' of area as a peaceful place

from page 8

bicycling, nature observation, horseback riding, cross-country skiing to name a few. ATVs and snowmobiles are noisy and are major sources of pollution. A single 2-stroke snowmobile or ATV can cause as much air pollution as 50 cars.

The rail trail runs through the residential corridor with homes on both sides of the trail. It is above and next to a main tributary of the Burnt River. All the discharge and pollution from the motorized vehicles on the trail will end up in the Burnt River, affecting fish, and threatening the health of the property owners and their families who use the river for swimming and recreation.

If snowmobiles' roar and pollution destroyed the peace and tranquility of the winter months, the residents alongside the trail will have to contend with the deafening noise of Enduro dirt bikes and rowdy ATV users in summer time.

The first and most important duty of any elected government is to safeguard and protect the health and safety of its people. That is the essence of democracy. Our elected leaders in local councils and the county, are trusted and are expected to consider the immediate and long-term health and safety of the commu-

nity as a whole, and the property owners and residents near the rail trail in particular. We urge the county to uphold its written official plan policy of putting the envi-

MORE LETTERS

Times readers write

Environment first. An independent Environmental Impact Assessment is essential. Haliburton Highlands is truly a "Natural work of art" as depicted on its official website. Let's keep it beautiful.

If Elliot Lake or Sturgeon Falls are keen on becoming the dumping grounds for noise and pollution it would be their loss. There is plenty of room and opportunities

for snowmobilers and ATVers outside residential areas. The rail trail runs through the heart of our community. Haliburton should look at the city of Peterborough which has turned its rail trail into an attractive non-motorized bike route, allowing all multi-use activities for healthier lifestyle. As long as the relentless assault on the community erodes our livelihood and tarnishes the reputation of Haliburton as a peaceful tourist attraction destination, we are bound to see more signs on the county roads reading "Doctors wanted", "Taxpayers wanted"...

A. Alizadeh
Highlands East



Daren Lum/TIMES

Fred Gindl and Martin Slezak of First Class Flight Training are teaching local people to fly at Stanhope Airport

Fulfilling a lofty dream

Archie Dobbins is learning to 'slip the surly bonds of earth' through flight training

by SHERYL LOUCKS/Times

Tailspins are usually a metaphor for being out of control but for Archie Dobbins, executing his first tailspin was the most exhilarating moment of control in his life.

Growing up near Shearwater's airport in Nova Scotia in the 1960s planted a life-long desire to fly in Dobbins. He says he dreamed of becoming a pilot while watching the planes as a kid and when he woke

up last year on his 50th birthday he decided that he had to get his pilot's licence before his body or health made it impossible.

"There could be nothing worse than dis-

covering you were dying and never being able to do something you always dreamed of. It would make you so bitter. And there's always some reason not to — money, family — but once you make the decision to do something, everything falls into place," says Dobbins.

One of those "things" was getting an instructor. Dobbins, who lives in the county, was not too enthusiastic about having to drive an hour or more away to learn how to fly. John Packer, Algonquin Highlands Municipal (Stanhope) Airport manager, had been goading him for 10 years, Dobbins says, to get his pilot's licence. Packer suggested he check out First Class Flight Training located at Magnetawan.

Packer had his own motivations. The manager had been trying for four years to attract a flight training school to Stanhope before hearing of Fred Gindl, an aviation maintenance engineer who owns First Class Flight Training. Packer says he wanted to add another dimension to the airport by having a service centre where planes could be fixed and a training school where people could learn how to fly. He says having Gindl start a branch operation in Stanhope strengthens the business case for the expansion of the airport.

"Having a flight school fits hand in glove with the airport's development plan. We had a lot of people asking for it. We're working to make sure people know we're here and the school is a way to promote



The opportunity to learn to fly at Stanhope Airport is proving popular

see YOU page 11

You need to act on your dreams, says aspiring pilot Archie Dobbins

from page 10

the hobby of flying, to increase activity here," says Packer.

The proposal to Gindl was baited with potential students. Gindl says that when he was approached by Packer with the idea, he was immediately interested. Magnetawan's airport consists of a short 1,600 ft grass strip with trees at either end and is far more challenging for students than Stanhope's 2,500 foot strip. There is less traffic through the small Magnetawan airport and more of a dead season.

Offered the chance to teach students in Haliburton County, the opportunity to do scenic flights and operate his maintenance business, Gindl worked out an agreement with Packer and Algonquin Highlands to open a satellite business in Stanhope.

Gindl decided to send his new flight instructor Martin Slezak to get things going in Stanhope. Like Dobbins, Slezak has had a life-long obsession with planes and flight. The first toy he can remember having as a kid was a plane. The 27-year-old pilot says he jumped at the opportunity to work in cottage country. Working as a Class 2 instructor (one is the highest) Slezak was eager to log hours; the more hours he has, the closer he gets to his dream of flying commercial airlines.

"You have to love flying to make it in this industry. It's very cut throat. There are so many pilots out there," says Slezak.

He starting instructing in the Greater Toronto Area with 300 hours of flying under his belt. It was, he says, as much of a learning experience for him as his students. He is now coming up to 1,200 hours and sounds a bit like an excited junkie when he tries to describe his addiction to flying.

"When you're flying it's unlike anything else you'll ever do. You feel free. You're in this little box with wings and you can do whatever you want. You can see everything - you're on top of the world," Slezak enthuses.

Slezak gets a kick out of his students, whether they are going for a pilot's licence or experiencing First Class's "pilot for a day" program. He says that when they first get their hands on the controls they flash him an incredulous look and usually say something on the lines of "I can't believe you can actually do this." Most of them land back on the ground with enormous grins.

Dobbins was the first of Slezak's students at Stanhope. They started training together on April 1. Dobbins says the next day it struck him that starting to pursue the dream of a lifetime on April's Fool Day was probably not

Darren Lum/TIMES



Martin Slezak and John Gindl with the plane they use to train aspiring pilots

the best of ideas but it has worked out well. Dobbins went through the fast track program, flying every day he could and within six months got his licence.

What Slezak enjoys about teaching at Stanhope is that being a smaller service means students are not numbers and the school is more personalized. Dobbins says he and Slezak have got along very well together and have a lot of fun - not that he has not had his knuckles rapped by his teacher. Dobbins says they are supposed to check the instrumentation regularly. If he failed to remember to do

'When you're flying it's unlike anything else you'll ever do. You feel free. You can see everything - you're on top of the world'

them Slezak would often stall the plane and make him go through emergency procedures. Slezak says part of the training is to prepare pilots for engine fires, failures and emergencies.

"I was so sick and tired of emergencies," Dobbins laughs. "But he's done a good job. I went to Moncton and rented a plane. I had to take it for a test flight with the a pilot there and he was really impressed with my skills and says these guys have done an excellent job with my training."

Dobbins describes flying as "being in a totally unnatur-

al element." Once, when he was forced to wear a visor that blocked his vision of everything but the instrumentation panel, he discovered that if you rely only on your senses it feels like you're flying straight even though the plane is actually heading back to earth. "You could be dead in 60 seconds by just using your senses," he says.

Slezak says flying is not like driving a car; there is a whole other dimension to it - the up and down and gravity. He gets a buzz, as do his students, out of "pulling Gs" or changing the gravitational pull on the plane and the pilot. A negative "G" is beyond weightlessness so that everything is pushed up in the cockpit or floating. A positive "G" is when you are slammed back against the seat and pulled hard back towards earth.

"I think Archie's wow moment was learning you can actually control that and the plane through a spin. We did the ground training but then because of the weather it was three or four days before we could actually get up and try it. Sleepless nights for Archie," Slezak teases him.

Dobbins laughs and agrees. He says when he first started flying it took four or five sessions before the queasiness went away but the real test of nerves the real test of nerves was preparing for his first spin. Previously he had thought learning to land First Class's Cessna 152 by steering with your feet via the rudder pedals was a challenge but learning how to flip the plane upside down and spin it gave him "an interesting perspective on the world" and "an enormous feeling of gratification."

What has fascinated him the most is learning about the highways in the sky marked by beacons. He is amazed at how you can navigate anywhere via the beacons without getting lost. The beacons become even more important now that he is getting his night rating, or night flight training. It has also, he says, added another dimension of beauty to his hobby by allowing him to float through a sea of stars.

Dobbins is a huge advocate of the school. He suggests anyone interested in flying should try the "pilot for a day" program. People do ground training, learn how to the ground plane check and go up for an hour in the Cessna with a chance to get their hands on the controls.

As for actually getting a licence, Slezak says ministry requirements are that you log a minimum of 45 hours flying time before trying the written and flight examination. Slezak says no one goes for it at 45 though; the average time is between 60 to 80 hours. It is an expensive endeavour. First Class charges \$160 hourly rate for flying, fuel included, \$105 for solo flights, and \$55 an hour for ground briefings. Dobbins warns there is an awful lot to learn too about how to do weather, fuel and gauge calculations, and about the plane.

Slezak says First Class has four students going for their licences and just acquired four new students. They have an additional four students doing other types of training. Gindl and Packer are confident the business will grow. They are currently in negotiations for moving First Class to the white house adjacent to the airport that Algonquin Highlands bought earlier this year.

As for Dobbins, his future plans include finishing his night rating and building the fastest plane he can manage to put together so he can fly his family to visit relatives in James Bay and Halifax. His wife is preparing to do her co-pilot's course.

"Time is blistering by so fast for all of us. You need to act on your dreams and not wait till you wake up after 50 years like me," advises Dobbins.



The allure of flight is a century old, but its power is undiminished for student pilot Archie Dobbins

Submitted



Matthew Walks/TIMES

Highland storms to victory

Haliburton County's Highland Storm Atoms won the 2003 Silverstick Championship on Sunday, Dec. 21st, with a 4 to 1 win. On Ice (L-R): Rob Lewis, Samantha Tallman, Marcie Dick. Front Row: Jacob Kidd, Michael Mazara, Dillon Upton, Colby Cunningham, Chris Judge. Middle Row: Nick Freeman, Jon Salvatori, Brady Kent, Stephan Schollig Johnathan Rae. Back Row: Assistant coach Andy Salvatori, manager Janice Lewis, trainer Don Lewis and coach Bernie Upton.

MINDEN LANES

636 Mixed December 22

High scores men

Average: Bob Vankoughnet, 187
Single: Tom Foster, 222
Triple: Tom Foster, 586

Single/Handicap: Tom Foster, 256
Triple/Handicap: Tom Foster, 688

High scores women

Average: Leitha Stearns, 148
Single: Pat Roussel, 188
Triple: Beryl Hannington, 494
Single/Handicap: Pat Roussel, 260

Triple/Handicap: Beryl Hannington, 695

Team Matches

Gutter Groupies defeated Low Rollers
Miss 'n' Hit defeated Sure Shots
Ink Spots defeated Happy Gang

Bantam A Storm downs Bracebridge and Huntsville

by SHARON WALKER
Special to The Times

The Pepper Mill Bantam A hockey team played two exhibition games on the December 13 and 14 weekend.

The first of the two games was against Bracebridge. The Storm got off to a great start when Tyler Watson won the face-off and Brittany Hicks, back for her first game after being sidelined with an injury, relayed a pass to Sherri Walker who scored just 15 seconds into the game.

Bracebridge tied it up, but an unassisted breakaway goal by Mitch Vasey gave the Storm a 2-1 advantage. Before the frame ended, Bracebridge scored to get back on even terms.

The seesaw battle continued through the second period, with the two teams exchanging goals.

Derek Nesbitt gave the Storm a 3-2 lead. Devin Hunter scored and later, hunter set up Max Ambridge to tie the game at 5-5.

The score remained deadlocked at 5-5 until the last minute of the game. The Storm fought to keep the puck in the Bracebridge end. The puck went to Derek Nesbitt at the point and the rebound his blast was converted by Hunter for a 6-5 Storm win.

The following day the Storm travelled to the Blues country (Huntsville). Already having tangled with the Blues three times, Coach Tracey Nesbitt decided to shuffle the lines around and the adjustments paid off with a 5-2 win.

Hunter notched two. Sherri Walker scored on a tip in, from Steve Misio and Mitch Vasey. Tyler Watson and Matt Eno added one apiece.

The Bantams were scheduled to participate in the Silver Stick Tournament in Wasaga Beach over the Christmas holidays



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For the sixth year the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation decorates trees located in the front lobbies of the Health Care Facilities with tags sponsored by gifts from our generous supporters. To date this campaign has raised **\$43,452.00**. The proceeds will assist the Foundation to pay off the \$1,430,000 capital loan on the Health Care Facilities.

Thank you to the following generous businesses groups and individuals:

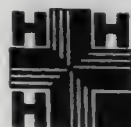
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Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank our Honourary Chairmen for our 2003 "Jolliest Holiday" campaign **Dr. Karl Hartwick & Dr. Jaan Roos.**

If you would like to help us have **"The Jolliest Holiday Season Ever"** your gift can be sent to **Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Box 1413 Haliburton ON K0M 1S0 or Box 30 Minden ON K0M 2K0** or you can deposit your gift in the donation boxes at the Minden & Haliburton Facilities.



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Moose Watch yields 670 charges

The annual Moose Watch anti-poaching enforcement campaign has finished for 2003, and the Ministry of Natural Resources has laid 670 charges and received 152 calls from the public.

As of December 15, 2003, a total of 332 tips have been received from the public: 125 unlawfully hunted moose and one caribou have been seized, two more than 2002; 78 moose have been discovered shot and abandoned, 59 fewer than 2002; 1,107 charges related to illegal moose hunting have been laid or are pending 288 investigations are underway in areas where moose hunting is permitted.

"Provincially, the number of illegally killed moose is down from last year and we are pleased with the response that Moose Watch received from law abiding hunters and the public," said Co-ordinator Charlie Todesco. "However, illegal moose kills in certain areas of Ontario did increase, which is a concern to conservation officers. Illegally killed moose reduce opportunities for law abiding hunters and could result in decreases in available adult validation tags."

The moose hunt ended December 15 in northwestern Ontario and is closed everywhere else in the province. Conservation officers have seized 42 illegally killed moose and found 35 abandoned moose in northwestern Ontario, with highest illegal kills in Thunder Bay, Nipigon and Dryden districts.

In northeastern Ontario, conservation officers seized 52 illegally killed moose and found 36 abandoned moose, with highest illegal kills in Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay districts. The highest incidence of illegal moose kills in the six-day southern Ontario hunt were in Parry Sound district, where 23 moose were seized and three abandoned.

Moose Watch encourages hunters and the public to report moose poaching by calling a special toll-free number, 1-866-34MOOSE (346-6673).



Darren Lum/TIMES

Hurry hard

Bob Walli shouts to his teammates, Jake Walker and Rob Ainsley, to sweep during play at the J.O. Jackson Memorial Bonspiel hosted by the Minden Curling Club on the morning of December 27.

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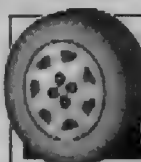
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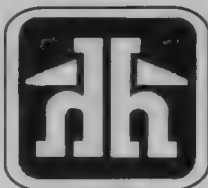
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Time-honoured tradition

The Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers were proud to donate a cheque for \$1,000 to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. This marked the club's ongoing tradition of donating to a local charity. Funds were raised throughout the year's 50/50 ticket sales, with all proceeds going to charity. In addition, proceeds came from the club's rock and roll night in July in Minden and topped up from the club's treasury. In this photo club president Karl Feuerpfel presents the cheque to Foundation president Jack Woodcroft.

Matthew Walls/TIMES



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Christmas gifts can be true family blessings

I am writing this column on the morning of Christmas Eve between vacuuming bedrooms for later arrivals and wrapping those last few presents avoided until now due to their odd size and shape. Looking back the only year we were ever really ready for Christmas was 1962 with an expected due date for baby #1 of December 24th. Despite the assurances of our family doctor that he had never delivered a baby on Christmas Day our David made his entrance right on schedule during the first hour of the morning. Bruce had to contain his excitement until later unable to share the "glad tidings" with family and friends who were already snug in their beds.

From the old farmhouse here on the Galway Road to you and yours the warmest wishes for a happy holiday season.

While the happenings here in Kinmount may receive more exposure now being familiar to this writer please remember that this column is open for community items of interest from all our area. If your group has an announcement of an upcoming event or related information to share do give a call, send a fax or email along.

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway & Area Ratepayers Association Inc. will be held on Saturday, January 10th at the Galway Hall starting at 10 a.m. Members and those interested in learning more about the activities of the Association should plan to attend. It's also a great way to meet your neighbours.

Thanks to Jeanne Anthon for sending

along this notice of an important volunteer contribution. Anyone interested in or affiliated with mental health services is invited to join the Advisory Committee to Mental Health in Haliburton County. Send a letter of interest to: HHMHSAC, Nominating Committee, Box 539, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 or call 286-4575.

Now for the Scoring News with your usual reminder to keep busy and well. They go together. Once again from all the groups warmest wishes for the holiday season. If you are considering coming out to these activities new players are most welcome. With the holidays coming on Wednesday and Thursday several groups will not be meeting until the new year so the list of results is a little on the lean side this week.

June Branning advises that there will be a new event starting on Friday, January 9th at Staanworth Court. Regular euchre will be played starting at 7 p.m. with a light lunch to be served. Parking on Prentice Street.

Thursday, December 18 euchre at the Minden Legion: In the lone hands column it was a Fletcher family sweep with Margaret winning for the ladies and Milton for the gents. High scores ladies/men were recorded by Gala Stamp and Pat Roussel with second highs going to Pearl Cowen and Norm Lee. Other prizes were won by John Mallon, Pearl Cowen, Kevin Maloney, Margaret

Fletcher and Helen Luffman. Thursday euchre will resume on January 8th.

Friday, December 19 bid euchre at Club

35: Mary Pearson reports that the group had a wonderful Christmas party with fabulous food. Single moonshots

went to Jean Scadden, Sharon Evans, Tom Pearson and Pearl Cowen with Dick Coffey taking two. Leading the pinks was Jean Scadden at 276 followed by Jean Randall 266 and Helen Windsor 265. For the white cards it was Chris Clarke topping the charts at 337 then Betty D'Ambrosio 306 and Dick Coffey 285.

Saturday, December 20 bid euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: First place winner was Pat Scadden 273 with Ruth Kellett 263 second and Jean Scadden third at 254. Pat Scadden had the only moonshot while hidden scores were uncovered by Elva Paisley, Gala Stamp and Norm Lee. June Branning reminds that there will not be bid euchre next Saturday, December 27th with cards to start again on January 3rd.

Monday, December 22 euchre at Staanworth Terrace: Congratulations to our

reporter Elaine Yeo for winning the prize for high hands. Helen Skelding took the honours for low hands and Verna McDonald was a double winner earning both most lone hands and also the evening's special prize. Get well wishes are sent out to Georgina Deeks from her many friends at Staanworth.

Monday, December 22 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at the Kinmount Legion: It was Dorothy McElwain in the winners' circle with both the high score and the special draw to her credit. In the moonshot department Mary Viney had a single and Ida Young took two.

Tuesday, December 23 bid euchre at the Minden Legion Branch 636: In first place was Elva Paisley 268 followed by Gala Stamp 259 and Sharon Evans 249. The moonshot quartet members were Gala Stamp, Don Burch, Kevin Maloney and Margaret Fletcher while Norm Lee, Rob Evans and Milton Fletcher held the hidden scores.

Tuesday, December 23 Stanhope Firehall Seniors Social Club Mixed Shuffleboard: The top three teams were Syd Lockhart and Jim Meadows first at 400 then Alf Briscoe and Helen Skelding second with 259 and George Hamilton partnered with Laura Carnegie third at 253.

The afternoon's low score of 121 was recorded by the duo of Shirley Alderton and Grace Berardi.



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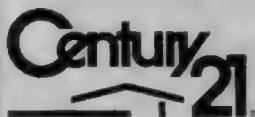
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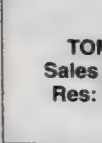


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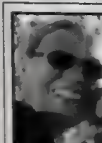
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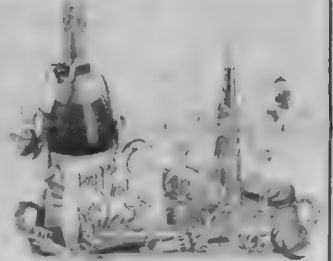
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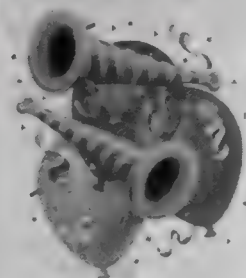
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As we usher in another year, our
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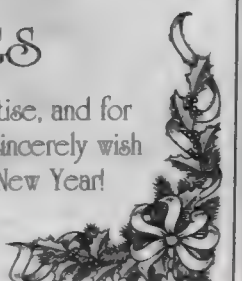
I would like to extend my best wishes to all. Good health and great happiness in the New Year. I want to thank you for your faith in our expertise and for the pleasure and privilege of serving you over the past year. May the New Year bring a world of peace and happiness for you and those you love.

Respectfully,
Denise LeBlanc

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

For your trust in our company, your faith in our expertise, and for the relationship we enjoy with you, we thank you and sincerely wish you A world of peace and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

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Learning Program needs volunteers

On the wish list for 2004 the Haliburton Highlands Learning Program are helpers to accomplish the following:

- A volunteer with camcorder to tape on Popcorn Day Session. This would allow students to see and hear how they sound and look to others.
- Calculator Workshop: Teach students the use of calculators for basic math, percentages, and fractions.
- A Scrabble board game, and volun-

teers to host a card club on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.

- A team of volunteers to put together a job search preparation program (resume writing, job hunting techniques, telephone manner, filling out applications, practice job interviews, etc.)

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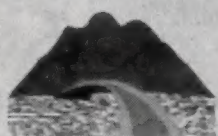
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"Bulldozer Services" to the attention of Robert Romberg, Environmental and Property Operations Manager, no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, January 9th, 2004. For further information, please contact Robert Romberg at (705) 286-1260.

LOWEST OR ANY TENDER NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED.

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what's happening
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CALENDAR

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• Anyone interested in or affiliated with **Mental Health Services** are invited to join the Advisory Committee to Mental Health in Haliburton County. Send a letter of interest to: HHMHSA, Nominating Committee, Box 539 Minden ON K0M 2K0 or call 286-4575

• **Al-anon**, a support group for family & friends of alcoholics. Meets every Monday at 8pm at Hyland Crest. For meeting locations, days & times call 705-374-4633.

• **The Haliburton Highlands Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., in the Fireside lounge, Hyland Crest Senior Citizen's Home, Minden. Call Rick Ratcliff 286-6699 -email: leacliff@sympatico.ca.

• **Well Baby Drop-In** - Mondays at the HKPR Health Unit in Haliburton. 1:30-3:30 p.m. We will weigh your baby, discuss infant care, provide breastfeeding support, etc. Call 457-1391 ext.224.

• **The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre** invites you to come & experience our exciting Self-Care workshops. Each workshop runs from 1 to 3 p.m. Advanced Registration Required. For a list of workshops with dates call 705-748-5901.

• **Family Services of Haliburton County** is in urgent need of volunteer respite workers, someone who can be a special "buddy" and share your interests, or plan a fun activity with a child who has special needs in Tory Hill, Halls Lake, Haliburton, Donald, & Cardiff. Call Marilou at Family Services 457-5345 ext 308.

• **Climax Climbing Club** - a drop-in indoor rock climbing program offered by Family Services. Every Tuesday ending April 13th (excluding school holidays) at Camp Madeeba in West Guilford. Call 457-5345.

• **January 2:** Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library - You're Invited! Come to the Minden Arena 1 - 3 p.m. In Partnership with Health for Life, and in conjunction with "Get Movin'" and Family Services, Friends of the Library will be hosting a free skate for families. This promises to be an afternoon of fun activities for the whole family. And @ 2:30 p.m. A presentation of a donation of books to Friends of the Library will be made by Anne-Marie Cyr. & Family Services will present research from the Child's Play Project. Bring your family and your skates and get ready for some fun.

• **January 4:** 11 a.m.-Joint Service at Minden United Church.

• **January 7- March 10:** Highlands Parent Child Mother Goose Program. Parents & children (birth to 2-1/2 years) learning rhymes, songs & stories together. Wed. mornings 10 - 11 a.m. at the Cardiff Elementary School. Call Family Services 457-5345 or Ontario Early Years Centre 457-2989.

• **January 8:** L.I.F.T. (Ladies In Fellowship Together) 7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. West Guilford Rec Centre. Speaker: Elizabeth Hutchinson, Carnarvon. Music: Terry Upton, Eagle Lake. Special Feature: Franka Andriano of "Franka's Delectable Catering Service" Lyn 457-3155 or Alice 754-2808.

• **January 8:** Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre presents Women's Empowerment by Vicky Clark, 1-3pm. Call 705-748-5901.

• **January 8:** Come out to the 1st Winter Hike of the Season and celebrate the opening of the new resort area snowshoe trail! Meet at 10:30am at the Delta Pinestone Resort Contact the Trails & Tours Network for information 457-4049 or info@trailsandtours.on.ca

• **January 8:** Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists Monthly Meeting will present local naturalist Jim Thompson who will talk and show slides on wild flowers of Haliburton County & surrounding areas. 7:30pm at the Haliburton Museum. 457-2487.

• **January 15:** 1 p.m. General meeting of the Minden H.H.S. Auxilliary at Hyland Crest. Dwight Thomas will talk about the Paramedic Service. Question & answer period will follow. Everybody welcome.

• **January 19:** Craft day for adults at Burnt River Library at noon. 454-9646

• **January 24:** Family Literacy Day at the following Libraries: Dalton (11 a.m.), Kirkfield (9:30am). For info contact the individual library branch.

• **January 24:** Introductory ice climbing workshop presented by Trails & Tours Network and Medeba. For details & to register, contact Trails & Tours Network at 705-489-4049 or info@trailsandtours.on.ca

• **January 26:** Noon Craft Time for adults at Norland Library. 454-8552.

• **January 27:** Celebrate Family Literacy Day at Coboconk Library at 6 pm.

• **January 28:** Family Literacy Day at Kinmount Library 11am. 488-3199.

• **January 31:** Introductory snowmobiling workshop presented by Trails & Tours and Haliburton County Snowmobile Assoc. For details & to register, contact Trails & Tours Network at 705-489-4049 or info@trailsandtours.on.ca

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavor to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Times at 286-4768, emailed to editor@mindentimes.on.ca., or brought in to the office. **NOTE:** This calendar is **NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS** taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in The Times for more information on events and in the Highlands.

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HIGH SCHOOL REUNION - The Memorabilia Committee is looking for pictures and items which can be displayed in the Decade Rooms at the 50th Reunion in May of 2004. If you have things you would be willing to share, please contact Julie Hartin at 457-1980 or Julie.Hartin@tdsb.on.ca

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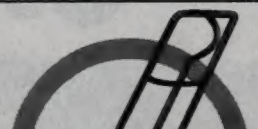
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460 OBITUARIES

PATRICIA EILEEN LANG
 (nee Leddy)
 Died of natural causes
 in her 87th year,
 at Haliburton, Ontario,
 on December 15, 2003.

Born in Saskatoon in 1917, Pat was the fourth of seven children who grew up in a big rambling house on Saskatchewan Crescent. Their home served as the unofficial hub of the city's social scene from the children's formative years to adulthood, when Pat left to marry Rudy Lang in 1950. She met Rudy sight unseen by teletype, communicating between her job at Trans-Canada Airlines in Saskatoon and his at Canadian Pacific Airlines in Regina. They enjoyed a long, happy life together until Rudy's passing in 2002. Pat and Rudy moved to Toronto in 1950 and started a new family. In the East for the first time, Pat dedicated herself to raising her son, Gerry, and daughter, Kathleen. She was an avid bridge player and generously volunteered her time throughout her life serving the Red Cross, the Catholic Women's League and the Mississauga Hospital Auxiliary. With the exception of four years in Ottawa, Pat spent the rest of her life in the Toronto/Mississauga area, until her 12-year affliction with Alzheimer's Disease required her to move to the Extendicare facility in Haliburton in 2001, where she received the most perfect, loving care of the professionals and fellow residents. The family is profoundly grateful to Jane Rosenberg and her enlightened staff and to Dr. Hartwick for the good physical health and quirky vigour she

460 OBITUARIES

CONTINUED...
 enjoyed in her last years. Patricia Lang is survived by Kathleen Lang and Andrew Hackett, Gerry and Colleen Lang and grandchildren Geoffrey and Meghan Lang, and brothers Murray Leddy and Brian Leddy. Her feisty energy and wit touched everyone. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Minden, on Friday, January 9, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. Interment to take place in the spring at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery. Reception to follow in the family centre at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. Memorial donations to the Extendicare Proud Pioneers would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden (1-888-588-5777).

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2⁹⁷ ea.

McCain Rising Crust Pizza
Pizza croute maison
PEPPERONI



McCain Pizza
Rising Crust or International
Selected, Frozen
464 - 900 g

4⁹⁹ ea.

Hellmann's Mayonnaise
1 Litre,
Big Squeeze 750 mL
or Flavoured 420 mL

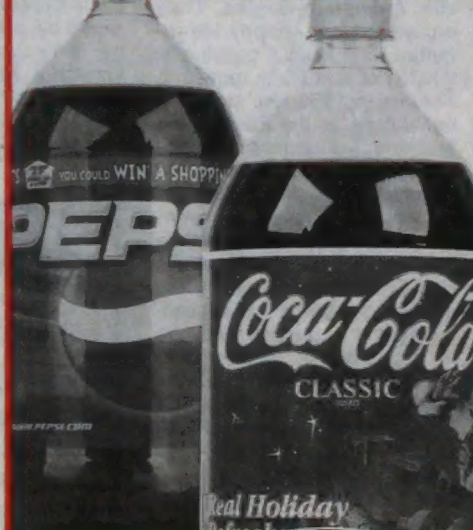
2⁹⁹ ea.

Lay's Potato Chips
Selected
245 - 260 g

3/5⁰⁰

Christie Snacking Crackers
Selected
200 - 454 g

1⁸⁸ ea.



Coke or Pepsi Soft Drinks
Selected
2 Litre

.88 ea.

from the deli

Mini Party Trays To Go
Classic Combo,
Supreme, Crowd Pleaser
or Just for Nibblers
600 g

12⁹⁹ ea.

Humpty Dumpty Snacks
Selected
285 - 320 g

2/4⁰⁰

from the bakeshop

Pumpnickel & Spinach Dip Tray
600 g

6⁹⁹ ea.

Prices valid from Saturday, Dec. 27th to Friday, Jan. 2, 2004

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**Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year**

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